

June 26, 1975

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

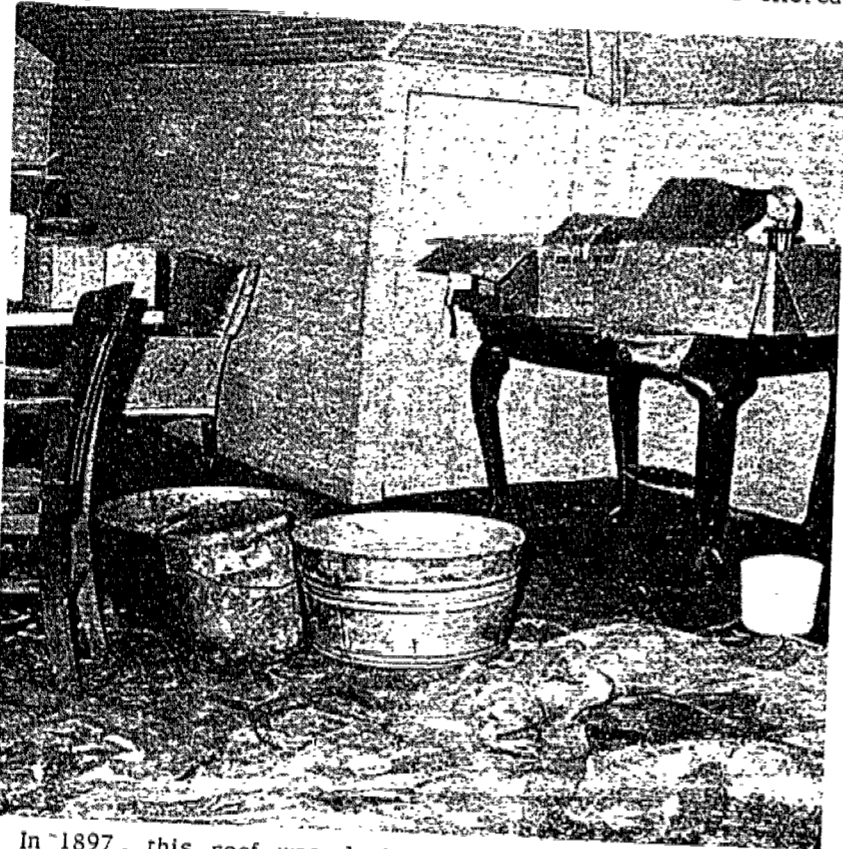
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## Fanwood Officials Inking On Municipal Facility

Fanwood residents in attendance at last week's third session of public input sessions on a new Municipal Building received at least some inkling of how their public officials are thinking on the issue. When pressed for their own feelings about the kind of municipal building expansion they'd like, several council members offered clues.



In 1897, this roof was designed to last for a normal horse's lifetime. However, the days of the horse drawn fire equipment have long since past.

Today under this same roof you will find your Fire Dept., Rescue Squad, Police Dept., Borough Council, Municipal Court and other Administrative offices.

The building, originally a barn, has under gone many additions and modifications. Today this building makes the functioning of Municipal services extremely difficult.

The Borough of Fanwood, understanding the problems, obtained the Slocum Property as the site for a new municipal building.

A questionnaire was mailed to each taxpayer in the Borough of Fanwood. The results of this questionnaire will provide the Borough officials with the needed public opinion to decide what, if any, action should be taken regarding a new municipal building. These questionnaires MUST be returned.

At this point, following three public input sessions, Councilwoman Carol Whittington said she tends toward Plan 1C - a plan which calls for new construction on the site of the present Slocum home owned by the borough. Plan 1C provides for a new municipal facility, set 90 feet from the street, in contrast to the present 150-foot setback of the home which now stands at the site. Plan 1C is similar to 1B (which also provides for a new building at the 90-foot setback, but 1C is more compact than 1B, without a courtyard design. She favors selling off land along Russell Road which is not required for a municipal building. This could be used for homes, she said.

Councilman John Coulter doesn't have a specific plan to support yet. Coulter indicated his displeasure with any plan which calls for public safety or emergency facilities in the middle of a block, which would rule out location of improved municipal facilities on the existing Watson Road site. Coulter said he has never seen an emergency setup work in the middle of the block. While he is concerned for safety, he noted that firemen and Rescue Squad members "only report when the whistle blows," and he is even more concerned

with providing decent facilities for those who work for the borough five days a week. "I would not want to work in this pig pen myself," Coulter said, indicating that he will think of the municipal employees and the police when making a decision.

Coulter said the police and legislative are a business function, while the public safety people need primarily a garage, and he therefore does not see any deep need for marrying the two under one roof. He favors a building located further forward than the Slocum home is now positioned, to allow for hiding of cars and police vehicles in back of the building. Coulter noted that provisions for improved public safety headquarters should be given high priority. "If we ever had to pay for a fire department, I think Fanwood would cease to be a viable community," he noted.

Councilman William Winey favors one of the Number One plans, either 1A, 1B, or 1C. He awaits public reaction which will be received from questionnaires mailed out to each property owner. Winey said he feels it would be operating backwards to say that the town should set a top figure on a new building, then work within the financial limits. Instead, he feels the current approach, in which the community

## Sochan's Name On Agenda For Appointment Tonight

### High School Baseball Coach On Agenda For Appointment

The agenda for tonight's public meeting of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education lists consideration of professional appointments which include James Sochan as Athletic Director. Mr. Sochan now holds positions as Social Studies teacher and baseball coach at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Sochan came here in 1960, after his graduation from Kutztown State College in Pennsylvania. He also is a graduate of Palmerton High School in Palmerton, Pennsylvania.

In addition to his teaching and coaching duties, Sochan has served as trainer for all sports for several years. Last year, he also assisted with the varsity wrestling program, as he has done in the past.

If a majority of the Board approves Sochan, as is generally assumed in light of the presence of his name on the agenda, he will replace Raymond Schnitzer.

Schnitzer has held the A.D. post for 18 yrs. He is also Assistant Principal of the High School. In renewing Schnitzer's contract for next year, the present Board of Education separated Schnitzer's dual role, renewing his Assistant Principalship but failing to renew the \$2,500 director job.

To date Schnitzer has not taken any legal action to seek reinstatement in the directorship.

It is likely that tonight's meeting at Shackamaxon School may see an argument over budget approval of expenditures in the audio-visual areas. Bids for audio-visual supplies brought forth a flurry of questions and criticism when the issue was raised at the agenda meeting last Thursday.

Thomas Fallon indicated last week that he has received negative citizen input regarding expenditures for audio-visual equipment. "We are getting blasted," Fallon said.

Another board member, Vincent Shanni, pressed for inventory information in this area. Shanni has similarly requested information on materials now on hand when discussions of maintenance materials and cleaning supplies arose last month. Shanni claims there is insufficient recording of materials and equipment on hand.

Michael Klock, assistant superintendent for business, had brought to the board the bids for the audio-visual materials. Klock said in response to Shanni's criticisms that the district does keep "pretty good" control over equipment movement in and out of buildings.

Board member Robert Carlson asked that Shanni be shown an inventory to end the argument over whether or not it exists. Carlson also questioned a recent advertisement in an area newspaper, offering television repair service, with a school telephone number offered as the contact on the advertisement.

Carlson wanted to know whether school purchased materials were being used in the television repair service, but his question was never answered amidst the give-and-take between board members.

The board members argued the relative merits of having the administration supply to the board more detailed information on bids. At present, only low bid figures are furnished with recommendations for bid approval. Carlson and board president Richard Bard feel more information on range of bids should be supplied. When Acting Superintendent Perry Tyson claimed that is the function of staff and confidence in staff should negate the need for such information, Darrell Brownawell raised the issue of board perusal of bills.

Brownawell said the ad hoc committee on community relations, formed last year as an advisory to the Board's Public Relations Committee, had recommended careful study of the bill list before voting. The board should conscientiously ask questions about the list, Brownawell said.

The establishment of goals and priorities for this district was another recommendation of the committee, Brownawell noted. The board may take up that issue tonight.

The board meeting tonight will include announcement of receipt of a petition from 235 teachers asking that the position of special education director be reinstated. Letters on the same issue were received from 23 citizens. The board eliminated this directorship last month.

What may perhaps be a portent of battlelines to come in the future was received by the board, in a request from the president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association for negotiations on elimination of positions and other staff reductions recently undertaken by the board. Michael Lauten, president of the association, and Charles Bihler, president of the administrative-supervisory wing of the group, seek the negotiations on the issue of job descriptions - an area which has heretofore been considered the prerogative of management. The board is seeking legal opinion on whether negotiations must be opened again, in light of the request.

Mrs. Patricia Kuran plans to file an appeal on the subject of local SAT scores. Mrs. Kuran sought and was granted a state-level hearing last year. She Continued On Page 12

### New Officers For Plains Squad

The captain and 2nd Lt. resigned as officers in the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad at the past meeting.

Former Captain Paul Schiattarella of the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad tendered his resignation as Captain of the Squad effective immediately, he will continue as an active member and instructor to the squad.

Former 2nd Lt. William Rusch also tendered his resignation as an officer to the squad and will remain in an advisory capacity.

Schiattarella will be replaced by former 1st Lt. Albert Delnero Jr. Delnero will be replaced by Harold Hill Jr. as 1st Lt. Ercole Sorge will assume the duties of 2nd Lt. Appointments were made by Pres. Nickolas Colarusso.

government has solicited space needs from the various departments and fed these needs to an architect for formulation of basic building block costs, is the wiser approach. This way, the government is aware of what the various agencies need and can present the needs when seeking public opinion.

These three Council members were the only ones in attendance, in addition to Mayor Ted Trumpp, last week. Councilmen Swindlehurst and Coronella were absent.

The third session of public hearings was shorter and attended by fewer people than the previous two sessions. The next step will be the opening of the questionnaires, which will be done after June 30. The July 11 monthly meeting of Council should offer further clues of future steps.

At the present time, Robert Thayer is heading a sub-committee of the original citizens' committee which studied the Slocum property. Thayer's group is screening proposals from various architectural firms. About 25 architectural proposals have been received. These range from short, two-or three-page outlines to full-scale booklets of architectural qualifications from major architectural firms. The sub-committee will narrow down to about five firms, which will be interviewed before the sub-committee gets together with Council to make recommendations. The Council will also interview the architects.

Mayor Ted Trumpp pointed out a desperate need for improved municipal facilities. Now is the wise time to start construction, before the economy recovers and costs rise, he feels.

Thayer said the sub-committee is now down to about nine proposals. The sub-committee is looking at the qualifications of the firm, the buildings built to date, and the plans submitted by

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